

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**HEAL**

HEAL 331. DL2 – Men’s Health  
3 Credits, Spring 2024  
Distance Learning  
3/11- 4/30

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

None

**University Catalog Course Description**

Examines socio-cultural influences on men's development and expression of health beliefs and practices. Explores health issues specific to men. Analyzes research literature on interventions to improve men's health.

**Course Overview**

Through a variety of learning activities, students will be expected to master content within the various dimensions of men’s health. Students will study the body and the mind as it relates to the healthy male figure in modern society.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered online using an asynchronous format via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course scheduled across 7 weeks. **The course site will be available on Monday, March 11, 2024 at Noon. The last day of instruction will be on Friday, April 26, 2024, followed by the final exam period of April 27 to April 30, 2024.**

**Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.**

*Technical Requirements*

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard’s supported browsers see:  
[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#supported-browsers](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers)

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:

[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems)

- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - Windows Media Player:  
<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player>
  - Apple Quick Time Player: [www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

### *Expectations*

- Course Week: Because asynchronous courses do not have a “fixed” meeting day, please note that our week will start on Monday and finish on the following week’s Tuesday. Deadlines for all assignments will be clearly indicated on the course Blackboard site.
- Log-in Frequency:  
Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least 3 times per week.
- Participation:  
Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- Technical Competence:  
Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- Technical Issues:  
Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Workload:  
Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- Late work/Missed assignment:  
If a student misses an assignment during the course, they are able to request a *one-time* opportunity to make up the missed work at the discretion of the instructor if the request is submitted within a week of the module deadline. This applies for one assignment only. This one-time opportunity does not extend beyond the final date of course instruction and requires instructor approval.

- Instructor Support:  
Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method (phone or video call) and suggested dates/times.
- Netiquette:  
The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- Accommodations:  
Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

### **Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Identify and explain key health issues for males from a domestic as well as an international perspective.
2. Clearly articulate the top causes of death for men across all races in the US.
3. Recognize physiological and psychological ramifications of communicable and chronic diseases that affect men, including sexually transmitted diseases, heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, Alzheimer's disease and cancer.
4. Understand the physiological perspectives of the male body and the required maintenance for optimum health.
5. Identify resources and strategies that promote health in the male population.
6. Understand mental illness among men from a multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary perspective.
7. Synthesize the characteristics of a healthy and an unhealthy relationship.
8. Describe the unique substance abuse issues experienced by men including alcohol, drugs, smoking and performance enhancing drugs in sports and the social and physical consequence.
9. Clearly articulate the multitude of factors affecting eating and exercise habits in men, including body image, dieting practices and eating disorders.

## Professional Standards

N/A

## Required Texts

Karczmarczyk, D. & Milstein, S. A. (Eds.). (2021). *Men's health: An introduction*. London: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351022620>

[The book is available for free as an e-book through the GMU library. A link will be provided on Blackboard.]

Additional required readings will be posted on Blackboard for each module.

## Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, hard copy). Please note that all the evaluations during the course are performance based assessments and no fieldwork experience is required.

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**

Course Evaluation Criteria	
Requirement Details	Possible # of Points
<b>Syllabus Quiz</b> (1 quiz, up to 5 points)	<b>5</b>
<b>Pre-Assessment</b> (1 anonymous assessment, up to 10 points)	<b>10</b>
<b>Personal Reflections</b> (5 reflections total, up to 10 points each)	<b>50</b>
<b>PSA Video</b> (1 video, up to 25 points)	<b>25</b>
<b>Content questions</b> (25 questions in 6 modules, up to 50 points each)	<b>300</b>
<b>Post-Assessment</b> (1 anonymous assessment, up to 10 points)	<b>10</b>
<b>Final Exam</b> (50 multiple choice questions, 2 points each)	<b>100</b>
<b>Total number of possible points</b>	<b>500</b>

**Syllabus Quiz:** In Module 1 there will be a syllabus quiz to ensure that students have reviewed the course expectations, schedule, and required assignments. This quiz will be a multiple-choice quiz with 10 questions based on the content of the syllabus. Students will have up to 2 attempts to complete the quiz. The highest grade will count towards the final grade in the course.

**Pre and Post-Assessments:** Each student will be asked to answer a series of multiple choice and short answer questions at the start and near the end of the class. The responses will be anonymous and collated before being shared with the class. Complete details for this assignment will be posted on Blackboard.

**Personal Reflections:** These reflections will be brief written responses on the content covered in the course. These assessments are an opportunity to reflect on the health topics raised in class and respond to specific questions about the content from the instructor. These reflections are opinion based and will be graded based on grammar, spelling, and thoroughness in each response.

**PSA Video:** Each student will develop a 90 second video Public Service Announcement (also called a PSA) and share it directly with the Instructor. The PSA must describe a prominent men’s health issue, share significant health statistics, and offer at least one resource that can offer support or education on the issue. Complete details for this assignment will be posted on Blackboard.

**Content Questions:** There will be a lot of material covered in the course. Material will be presented from a wide variety of sources including, but not limited to, the textbook, video clips, websites, magazines, newspaper and journals. In 6 course modules, there will be up to 25 multiple choice and true/false questions about the content.

**Final Exam:** The final exam in the course will be an opportunity to demonstrate understanding of key concepts from the course. The exam will be delivered online through Blackboard. The exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Each student is expected to complete the exam independently with access to the textbook, internet and resources from the class. This is an independent assignment for each student.

- **Other Requirements**

Active participation will help to make this class more valuable. Each student has an important contribution to make in the class, so please share information appropriately as it relates to the course material and professional development of fellow classmates.

All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard. It is also the responsibility of students to submit the work in a file that can be opened. Files that cannot be opened may be subject to a deduction in points until a file is received that can be opened.

Type, spell check and proofread all work submitted. A deduction in points will occur for work that contains grammatical and spelling errors.

- **Grading**

All work submitted in the class will be evaluated using the undergraduate grading scale for the SOED.

*Grading Scale:*

<b>A</b> 100-94%	<b>B+</b> 89-88%	<b>C+</b> 79-78%	<b>D</b> 69-60%
<b>A-</b> 93-90%	<b>B</b> 87-84%	<b>C</b> 77-74%	<b>F</b> 59-0
	<b>B-</b> 83-80%	<b>C-</b> 73-70%	

All grades and comments on work submitted will be posted on Blackboard. The final grade for the course will be determined based on the total number of points earned using the grading scale. The point scale breakdown for the final course grade will be as follows:

**Final Course Grade (*determined by points*):**

<b>A</b> 500 – 466 points	<b>B+</b> 445 - 436 points	<b>C+</b> 395 - 386 points	<b>D</b> 345 -296 points
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A- 465 – 446 points	B 435 - 416 points	C 385 - 366 points	F 295 -0 points
	B- 415 -396 points	C- 365 - 346 points	

### Professional Dispositions

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/>

### Class Schedule

DATE	CLASS TOPIC(S)	READING & ASSIGNMENTS
<b>Week of 3/11/2024</b> (Module 1)  Module 1 opens on 3/11/24 at Noon	Introduction to Men’s Health & Masculinity and Seeking Help	Read Chapter 1 and 2 in textbook  Read materials and watch videos posted on Blackboard  Assignments due 11:59 PM on 3/19 1) <b>Syllabus Quiz</b> 2) <b>Pre-Assessment</b> 3) <b>Content Questions #1</b>
<b>Week of 3/18/2024</b> (Module 2)  Module 2 opens on 3/18/2024 at Noon	Body Image & Male Anatomy	Read Chapter 3 and 4 in textbook  Read materials and watch videos posted on Blackboard  Assignments due 11:59 PM on 3/26 1) <b>Content Questions # 2</b> 2) <b>Personal Reflection #1</b>
<b>Week of 3/25/2024</b> (Module 3)  Module 3 opens on 3/25/24 at Noon	Sexual Health & Sexual Orientation	Read Chapter 5 and 6 in textbook  Read materials and watch videos posted on Blackboard  Assignments due 11:59 PM on 4/2 1) <b>Content Questions #3</b> 2) <b>Personal Reflection #2</b>
<b>Week of 4/1/2024</b> (Module 4)  Module 4 opens on 4/1/24 at Noon	Chronic Diseases	Read Chapter 7 in textbook  Read materials and watch videos posted on Blackboard  Assignments due 11:59 PM on 4/9 1) <b>Content Questions #4</b> 2) <b>Personal Reflection #3</b>

<b>Week of 4/8/2024</b> (Module 5)  Module 5 opens on 4/8/24 at Noon	Mental Health & Healthy Relationships & Fatherhood	Read Chapter 8, 9, and 10 in textbook  Read materials and watch videos posted on Blackboard  Assignments due 11:59 PM on 4/16 1) <b>Content Questions #5</b> 2) <b>Personal Reflection #4</b>
<b>Week of 4/15/2024</b> (Module 6)  Module 6 opens on 4/15/24 at Noon	Violence & Tobacco and Alcohol	Read Chapter 11 and 12 in textbook  Read materials and watch videos posted on Blackboard  Assignments due 11:59 PM on 4/23 1) <b>PSA Video</b> 2) <b>Post-Assessment</b>
<b>Week of 4/22/2024</b> (Module 7)  Module 7 opens on 4/22/24 at noon	Nutrition & Physical Fitness/Activity	Read Chapter 13 and 14 in textbook  Read materials and watch videos posted on Blackboard  Assignments due 11:59 PM on 4/30 1) <b>Content Questions #6</b> 2) <b>Personal Reflection #5</b>
<b>Week of 4/29/2024</b>	Final Exam  <i>The Final Exam opens at noon on          4/27/24</i>	<b>Final Exam</b> due 11:59 PM on 4/30  <i>The Final Exam and Module 7          assignments are due by 11:59 PM on          4/30</i>

**Note:** Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

### Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

### GMU Policies and Resources for Students

#### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).

- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <https://ds.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

### **Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:**

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/>.**

Mason is now partnered with TimelyMD to deliver **TimelyCare** – a new virtual mental health and well-being platform for students. The service provides 24/7 access to virtual care at no cost and augments the in-person and virtual mental health services that remain available to Mason students through Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and Student Health Services (SHS).

### **How can students access **TimelyCare**?**

Students can go to [timelycare.com/gmu](https://timelycare.com/gmu) or directly download the **TimelyCare** app from the app store to register with their school email address. Students can then start visits from any web-enabled device – smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop – anywhere in the United States.